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PATENT

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for detecting a watermark in host data which includes: a pre-filter which removes aspects of the host data that are not carrying a watermark signal, thereby enhancing the signal to noise ~~[ratios]~~ ratio of the watermark signal, and a watermark detection mechanism, which utilizes knowledge of characteristics of a watermark to detect the presence of a watermark..

2. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is image data.

3. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is audio data.

4. (Original) The system recited in claim 1 where the host data is video data.

5. (Currently amended) A method of extracting digital watermark data from host data which includes,  
receiving said host data as input to a watermark detection operation to detect a watermark signal embedded in said host data; and  
pre-filtering said host data prior to the watermark detection operation thereby enhancing the signal to noise ~~[ratios]~~ ratio of the watermark signal.

6. (Previously presented) The method recited in claim 5 wherein said pre-filtering comprises first applying a highpass operator to said host data and then applying a nonlinear operator to said data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is image data.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is audio data.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the host data is video data.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said highpass operator is a Laplacian operator.
11. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said nonlinear operator is a Signum operator.
12. (Original) The method of detecting a watermark signal in host data which includes, first filtering said host data using a high pass Laplacian filter, applying a nonlinear signum function to the output of said high pass filter, and then detecting the presence of a watermark signal in said filtered data.